Identification of most backward areas

2507. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the most backward areas in terms of economy, education and social indicators and;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for this purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, Planning Commission helps the State in this regard through weightage in the criteria used for distribution of Central Assistance and through Special Area Programmes such as Hill Area Development programme, Border Area Development Programme etc.

छंटनी किए गए औद्योगिक श्रमिकों और कर्मचारियों की संख्या

2508. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान देश में कितने औद्योगिक श्रमिकों और कर्मचारियों की छटनी की गयी;

(ख) इस छंटनी के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) छंटनी किए गए कर्मचारियों को पुनः रोजगार देने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं और अब तक कितने व्यक्तियों को पुनः रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया गया है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम॰ अरूणाचलम): (क) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार 1991-96 के दौरान देश में छंटनी किये गये कर्मकारों की कुल संख्या निम्नानुसार है:-

1991	4396
1992	3836
1993	2891
1994	2192
1995	1792
1996 (जनवरी से सितम्बर)	2047

(ख) छंटनी के मुख्य कारण वित्तीय तंगी, कच्चे माल की कमी, उत्पाद के लिए मांग की कमी, विद्युत की कमी और मशीनरी की खराबी हैं।

(ग) औद्योगिक पुनर्संरचना के प्रभावित कर्मकारों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा के रूप में सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण निधि गठित की है। यह निधि, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, पुनर्संरचना और औद्योगिक इकाईयों की बंदी से प्रभावित कर्मकारों के पुनर्प्रशिक्षण और पुनर्नियोजन की योजना के लिए सहायता प्रदान करती है। राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण निधि की सहायता से देश भर में विभिन्न एजेन्सियों द्वारा बड़ी संख्या में कर्मचारी सहायता केन्द्र स्थापित किये गये हैं। उद्योगों की बन्दी से प्रभावित कर्मकार केन्द्र प्रायोजित योनजाओं के अंतर्गत राज्य सरकारों द्वारा कार्यान्वित की जा रही रोजगार सृजन योजनाओं का भी लाभ उठा सकते हैं। 31-10-96 की स्थिति के अनुसार उपलब्ध संकलित की गई सूचना के अनुसार 49 कर्मचारी सहायता केन्द्रों से यह संकेत मिला है कि सलाह और पुनर्प्रशिक्षण के पश्चात 2900 कर्मकारों को पुनर्नियोजित किया गया है।

Setting up of genetic testing clinics by MNCs

2509. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of top multinational companies are preparing to set up a chain of commercial genetic testing clinics in the country on the lines of ultra sound centres to provide instant test results;

(b) if so, whether they wil also provide genetic counselling and treatment; and

(c) the steps to be taken to prevent the misuse of the high tech for sex determination results?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) M/s Progene Inc. USA, has been granted approval to establish Progene India

Human Genetic Centres in India. The Company, will offer services like, prenatal diagnosis, neo-natal diagnosis, cancer diagnosis, establishment of Immunology laboratory and screening of metabolic disorders. The approval is sub-

ject to the condition that they will disin-vest upto 40% of their foreign equity to local partners within five years and if this is not possible, they will continue their endeavour to promote and encourage participation of local investors. Further, the approval is subject to the condition that the company will take all necessary approvals as required under the existing laws and regulations.

Loss sufffcred on account of low recovery in khandsari factories

2510. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of nationl loss suffered on account of low recovery in Khandsari factories and the steps Gov ernment are taking to improve the re covery;

(b) the total number of khandsari factories in the country and their distribution, State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the number of persons employed in khandsari factories and the ways in which khandsari units are socially more beneficial than the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The recovery percentage in khandsari factories ranges between 6-7 as against about 10% in vacuum pan sugar factories.

The khandsari industry is regulated by the State Governments. The data regarding the number of khandsari factories & the persons employed therein are not being maintained by the Central Government.

Steps to check repression against the Workers in various Industries

2511. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the contribution of his Ministry to stop repression against the workers through retrenchments, lay-offs and lockouts in various industries during the last 5 years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The provisions relating to lay-off, retrenchment, closure, lockouts etc, are contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Act provides cartain measures of protection to the workers in the event of lay-off, retrenchment and closure. The Act also prohibits lockouts under certain circumstances, keeping in view the interest of workers. According to the available statistics, in general, there is a declining trend in the number of strikes and lockouts, lay-offs, retrenchment and closure during the last five years.

Implementation of "Central Scheme for Liberation of Scavangers"

2512. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a scheme titled "Central scheme for liberation of scavengers";

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) the number of scavengers in Bihar benefited from this scheme during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the target for 1996-97; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Ministry of Welfare launched "The National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers & their Dependents on 22nd March, 1992 with the objective of elimination of the inhuman practice of manual handling of night soil and filth by the end of VIII Plan Period. The main components of the scheme are:-

1. Rapid survery to identify Scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trades.
2. Training of Scavengers and their dependents